AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0073] with the following amended paragraph:

[0073] Pawl assist apparatus 1400 causes assist mechanism 14 to operate slightly differently from that shown for the downshifting operation in Figs. 17(A) - 17(F). The operation of pawl assist apparatus 1400 when a downshift operation is desired may be understood by reference to Figs. 25(A) - 25(D). In Fig. 25(A), pawl assist apparatus 1400 is in the same position shown in Fig. 24. In this position, the center of bias CB and second end 1416 of coil spring 1412 (represented by opening 1420) are disposed on the lower side of reference axis REF, and a biasing vector BV points to the upper side of reference axis REF, thereby applying a counterclockwise bias to motion transmitting pawl 506'. When control plate 518 is rotated in the counterclockwise direction as shown in Fig. 17(B) to perform a downshift operation, transition surface 618b of control plate 518, which functions as a bias vector moving mechanism in this specific embodiment, causes motion transmitting pawl 506' to rotate in the clockwise direction around rotational axis ROT as shown in Fig. 25(B). As a result, coil spring 1412 and center of bias CB rotate clockwise around opening 1420, and pivot reference axis REF rotates around rotational axis ROT toward opening 1420. Opening 1420 and center of bias CB are still located below pivot reference axis REF, so bias vector BV still points above the pivot reference axis REF and provides an even slighter counterclockwise bias to motion transmitting pawl 506'.